



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



DANIEL H. WALLIS
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

LICENSING MEMORANDUM FW-2-2023

DATE: August 29, 2023

FROM: Erin St. Pierre
Deputy Chief, Special Services

APPROVED: Dan H. Wallis
Louisiana State Fire Marshal

TO: All Pyrotechnic Operators
All Fire Prevention Bureaus

RE: Public Fireworks Displays & Current Weather-related Emergency

As stated in our August 24, 2023 correspondence, "Licensing Memorandum FW-1-2023," the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is conducting evaluations of the extreme drought conditions as they persist and making pyrotechnic public display permitting decisions accordingly.

To reiterate, on August 14, 2023, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency in which he acknowledged that the intense heat, coupled with worsening drought conditions and significant drops in levels of state waterways, has resulted in a direct threat to water supplies, agriculture and other plants, as flame, sparks and ember sources introduced to dry vegetation can have catastrophic effects. This concern has also been shared by the National Weather Service in the form of "red flag warnings," which are issued when a combination of very low humidity, warm temperatures and potential strong winds are expected, which can cause fires to spread rapidly. Currently, Louisiana is still experiencing drought conditions with low humidity and winds ranging from to 20 to 25 mph.

As referenced in our previous memorandum, the State of Louisiana has experienced triple digit percentage increases in the number of wildland fires, with 90% of Louisiana in a state of drought. As of yesterday, more than 400 wildfires were active in the state. Seventeen (17) parishes throughout the state are under local states of emergency due to fires.

These fires have caused millions of dollars in property damage, burning well over 60,000 acres. In addition, dozens of fire departments continue to struggle, with depleting resources, to such an extent that firefighters are being brought in from surrounding states to assist.

The update for this week, August 28, 2023 to September 3, 2023, is that extreme dry conditions with low humidity and higher wind gusts, continue. Therefore, no outdoor firework displays will be permitted in the state. All permits with the event dates above shall be denied or rescinded.

Please note that in the event that an application is denied or a permit rescinded, any monies received by the OSFM for permits will be refunded accordingly.

The OSFM will continue to evaluate the status of the relative threats that scheduled or requested displays may pose to determine whether any issued permits must be rescinded or requested permits denied. This Office will continue to communicate with affected licensees individually and will update all parties via weekly correspondence.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

cc: Mr. John Gallagher, LMA
Mr. Guy Cormier, PJA